

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 739

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

August 17, 1934

59.57,72 T (6)

FURTHER NOTES ON AFRICAN TRYPETIDAE (DIPTERA) IN THE COLLECTION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES

BY H. K. MUNRO

The following records deal with the balance of the Trypetidae material submitted to me and of which the Dacinae and certain Ceratitinae were discussed in American Museum Novitates No. 597 (February, 1933). The types of the new species are in The American Museum of Natural History.

Carpophthoromyia amoena (Enderlein)

Through an oversight it was not stated that the notes on this species made by me in the previous paper were based on specimens collected at Lukolela, left bank Congo River, 1° 5' S., January 13, 1931 (J. P. Chapin).

Aciura haematopoda Bezzi

A female, Addis Abbaba, Abyssinia, July 31, 1920.

According to Hendel this species should be placed in his genus *Metasphenisca*.

Spheniscomyia binaria (Loew)

A male, Kamaniola, Belgian Congo, February 1, 1927.

Pliomelaena bequaerti, new species

This species seems to be allied to *Pliomelaena caeca* Bezzi, but differs from Bezzi's description in having the frons wider, not narrower than an eye; the proboscis somewhat elongate and geniculate, not short and thick; the thoracic pubescence white, not brown; and the hind crossvein outwardly curved, not straight. In the description of *caeca*, Bezzi states that the stigma is long, but does not state the length; in this species the stigma is about twice as long as its basal width. Further, Bezzi states that in *caeca* the third vein is bristly for its whole length, possibly an incorrect observation; in *bequaerti* it is rather sparsely setiferous to just beyond the upper crossvein.

Both *caeca* and *bequaerti* differ from the other recorded species of *Pliomelaena* in the absence of an apical hyaline spot on the wing, but they may be retained in this genus owing to the general configuration and the bristly third vein. It may here be stated, although not always recorded in descriptions, that probably all species of

Pliomelaena have the third vein bristly to some extent. In the description of the genotype, *P. brevifrons*, Bezzi actually states that it is bare. This may be the case in the type specimen; but at any rate, the presence of setulae seems to be variable. In a series of *P. brevifrons* in my collection, one, determined by Bezzi, has a few setulae present at the extreme base only (as may be the case in the type) but in others, among them another specimen determined by Bezzi, there are somewhat weak, scattered setulae present to beyond the upper crossvein.

MALE.—Length of body, 3.9 mm., of wing, 4.0 mm. Head and appendages generally, yellow; length, height, width, 2:3:4; occiput black, broadly yellowish on margins, concave, not prominent below, bristles thickened, whitish; frons at vertex one and one-half times width of eye, narrowed to one and one-seventh as wide at antennae, as long as wide; yellow, with thickened yellow hairs on anterior two-thirds,

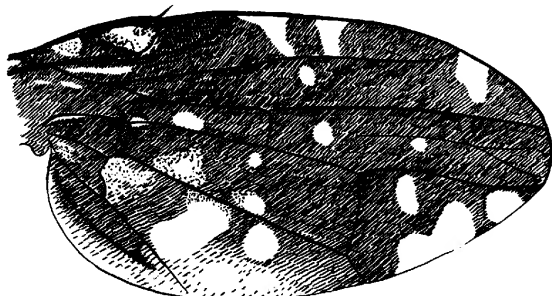


Fig. 1. *Pliomelaena bequaerti*, new species.

ocellar dot black, two superior orbital bristles, the upper yellow, three inferior, the lowest yellow and inconspicuous among yellow hairs, ocellars long and strong, brown; lunula short, deeper yellow; antennae darker than head, nearly as long as face, third joint twice as long as wide, upper edge straight, apex rounded, but upper corner almost a right angle; face short, epistome fairly prominent, cheeks and genae narrow, but not linear; oral opening large; proboscis with elongate, hooked labellae which are about as long as haustellum.

Thorax normal (discolored in specimen), black; humeri, upper portion of propleura, and more or less along notopleural suture to wing base, brownish or yellowish; dorsocentral bristles just behind suture, one mesopleural and sternopleural. Scutellum blackish, broadly brownish or yellowish on hind half; four strong bristles of equal length. Legs light brownish. Halteres brownish. Wing (Fig. 1) black, with rather few hyaline spots and indentations, no apical spot, veins black and barely visible, third vein bristly to a little past upper crossvein, costal bristle strong. Abdomen short, reddish black, with black, brown-shining pubescence especially toward apex where abdomen is more reddish; venter and genitalia reddish black.

TYPE.—Male, Paiaata, Liberia, October, 1926 (J. Bequaert).

***Euribia tristrigata* Bezzi, 1918**

Several specimens of both sexes, Addis Abbaba, July 5, 1920.

This species should probably be placed in *Paroxyna* Hendel, to which genus most of the African species of *Ensina* (sic. Bezzi) seem to

belong. *E. tristrigata* is possibly allied to the so-called "*dubia*" group, with which it agrees in the similar, but more reduced, wing-pattern, and in having four scutellar bristles of equal length.

***Paroxyna sororcula* Wiedemann**

Two specimens, Addis Abbaba, July 5, 1920, and Djibuti-Addis Abbaba railroad, September 14-17, 1920.

***Paroxyna ignobilis plebeja* (Bezzi)**

Two specimens, Mulata Mts., Harrar Prov., Abyssinia, September 22-25, 1920, and Rueru, southwest Miken, Belgian Congo, March 1927.

***Paroxyna anomalina* (Bezzi)**

Spathulina anomalina BEZZI, 1924, Ann. S. Afr. Mus., XIX, p. 536, Pl. xiv, fig. 87.

Two males and two females, Addis Abbaba, Abyssinia, July 31, 1920.

It has always puzzled me why Bezzi placed this species in the genus *Spathulina*. Besides the type, a male, I have two other males, also from Pretoria, that are identical with it. They are characterized by a reticulate pattern much reduced to a few dark spots (at stigma, on each cross-vein, below tip of second vein and at apex of wing, where, too, there is no apical hyaline spot), the reticulation joining the spots being more or less disconnected. Besides these I have a reared series of specimens that agree closely with the type, but the reticulation is slightly more developed and there is a hyaline apical spot; the latter, however, in some specimens has a tendency to disappear. It is with this series that the above four specimens from Addis Abbaba agree.

Paroxyna anomalina (Bezzi) is very close to *Paroxyna ignobilis* (Loew), and I am not sure yet just how far they can be considered as distinct species. Typical specimens of *P. ignobilis* and of the variety *plebeja* Bezzi differ in having a paler and more decided and complete reticulation.

***Sphenella marginata* (Fallén)**

Three specimens, Addis Abbaba, Abyssinia, July 18-19, 1920.

***Trypanea hexapoda* Bezzi**

A female, Langatown, Liberia, August, 1926 (J. Bequaert).

The specimen agrees with Bezzi's description, except that there are three inferior orbital bristles, the lowest yellow. The base of the ovipositor is a little longer than the last segment.

***Trypanea bisreducta* Bezzi**

A male, Addis Abbaba, Abyssinia, July 5, 1920.

In Bezzi's tables (1924, Bull. Ent. Res., XV, p. 143) this specimen runs to *Trypanea aira* Walker, but, as I have pointed out (1933, Dept. Agric. S. Afr. Ent. Memoir, VIII, p. 40), Walker's species cannot be recognized. On comparison with South African material, the specimen may safely be regarded as *bisreducta*, being one of those rarer cases in which there are two complete rays across the second posterior cell.

***Acanthiophilus brunneus*, new species**

Very similar to *A. helianthi* Rossi, but with a more pronounced, differently arranged, wing-pattern, shorter stigma and distinctly brownish dust on dorsum of thorax.

FEMALE.—Length of body, 5.3 mm., of wing 4.8 mm. Head as in *helianthi*, length about three-fourths height and not quite twice as wide; frons dull yellow, gray on orbits and behind, upper of the two superior orbital bristles yellow, three inferior orbitals, ocellars long; lunule large, semicircular, dull yellow; antennae about four-fifths length of face, upper point of third joint not quite as evident as in *helianthi*; face yellow, cheeks and genae narrow; oral opening wide; labellae short. Thorax normal, black, thickly dusted with Dresden brown, slight median and dorsocentral darker stripes, more blackish on sides and below, sparse white pubescence, dorso-central bristles just behind suture. Scutellum as thorax, four bristles, apicals short. Legs as in *helianthi*, reddish; wing normal; reduced pattern, stigma and just below, black, terminal spot more or less tending to become reticulate below, but no rays; a slight infuscation over crossveins, and slight irregular reticulation at end of discal cell. Abdomen black, thinly gray-dusted; pubescence black; base of ovipositor shining black, with black pubescence, paler anteriorly, elongate, length 1.0 mm., as long as last five segments of abdomen.

TYPE.—Female and two paratype females, Burunga, Congo, 1° 30' S., 29° 18' E., and a paratype female, Addis Abbaba, Abyssinia, August 30, 1920.

***Acanthiophilus griseus*, new species**

A pale brownish species of much the same size and appearance as *Acanthiophilus xiphias* (Bezzi), which was described as a *Euribia*. The type of *xiphias*, also a female, which is in the Hungarian National Museum, Budapest, I have been able to examine through the kindness of Dr. Z. Szilady. The females may be at once distinguished by the great length of the base of the ovipositor in *xiphias*, in which it is as long as the rest of the body, including the head; in this new species it is only as long as the abdomen. In addition, the pubescence on the dorsum of the thorax is golden yellow in *xiphias*, whereas in *griseus* it is white; the pale wing-patterns of both show in the latter a series of three darker spots along the costa, but not in the former.

FEMALE.—Length of body, 5.7 mm.; of wing, 5.3 mm. Head of normal shape, dull waxy yellow, occiput darker and ocellar dot black, occipital bristles yellow; frons about one-tenth longer than wide and slightly narrowed to antennae, two-fifths wider than an eye, bristles black, except upper of two superior orbitals yellow, three

inferior orbitals, ocellars strong, very slight whitish pubescence anteriorly and on sides. Antennae three-fourths length of face, darker yellow, third joint rounded at end, second with numerous black setulae; arista brownish at base, flagellum black; face flat, epistome moderately prominent, cheeks one-third and genae as wide as third antennal joint; palpi with black setulae at end; labellae short. Thorax normal, black except yellow below wing base, moderately gray-dusted, pubescence white, bristles blackish, dorsocentrals just behind suture, an extra whitish bristle below the mesopleural and the pteropleural; scutellum as thorax, pubescence longer, almost hairlike, the apical pair of bristles three-fourths length of basals. Halteres yellow; squamae yellowish, earlike. Legs almost chestnut, front femora with a row of yellowish bristles above, and of longer, blackish bristles on lower edge, middle and hind coxae with short row of flattened, yellowish bristles on outer side (not visible on first pair). Wing normal, not as narrow as in *xiphias*; third vein gently bent downward toward its outer end, a single setula on basal swelling; stigma yellow; base of wing hyaline, a faint reticulate pattern on outer half with darker spots on costa, one at costal bristle, one at tip of marginal cell, and one about midway between. Abdomen shining black, with slight gray dust, pubescence yellow, longer than on thorax, base of ovipositor shining black, with black pubescence, elongate, about as long as pre-abdomen.

TYPE.—A female, Addis Abbaba, Abyssinia, August 12, 1920.

***Rhabdochaeta nigra* Bezzi**

A rather small, somewhat teneral specimen, Bakratown, Liberia, October, 1916 (J. Bequaert).

I was fortunately able to compare this specimen with the type, but owing to its poor condition nothing much can be said. In this specimen the white spots in the submarginal and first basal cells appear larger, the third antennal joint rather blackened, and the dorsum of the thorax more uniformly gray-dusted.

